

ENDORSEMENT FOR CULTURALLY SENSITIVE, RELATIONSHIP-FOCUSED PRACTICE PROMOTING INFANT MENTAL HEALTH (IMH-E®)

What is the MI-AIMH Endorsement®?

Endorsement is a process that supports and recognizes the development of professionals who work with or on behalf of infants, toddlers, and their families. This process uses a nationally recognized set of competencies that helps define best practice and guides professional growth.

Who can apply?

All professionals who have experience working with or on behalf of infants, toddlers, parents, and/or other caregivers and meet the educational, work, training, and reflective supervision/consultation requirements as specified at each level.

Why apply for the MI-AIMH Endorsement (IMH-E®)?

- To grow and develop as a professional in the rapidly expanding infant and family service field.
- To be recognized by employers and peers for having attained a level of competency in culturally sensitive, relationship-focused practice that promotes infant mental health.
- To better support the infants, toddlers, families, students, agencies, and institutions in the promotion of infant mental health.

The five steps to the MI-AIMH Endorsement (IMH-E®) process are:

1. **Inquire** by contacting the Endorsement Coordinator (Nichole Paradis, nparadis@mi-aimh.org, 734-785-7705 x 7210) or by downloading a preliminary application at www.mi-aimh.org
2. Complete and submit the **preliminary application**, including the Preliminary Application Fee and MI-AIMH membership fee (new members only)
3. Prepare and submit the completed **professional portfolio** along with the Endorsement Processing Fee
4. **Documentation of competencies**, including a two-level review of the professional portfolio and, for Levels III & IV only, successful completion of written exam
5. **Endorsement**

The professional portfolio includes:

1. E-form (a list of specialized education, work, in-service training, and reflective supervision/consultation experiences using the template available at www.mi-aimh.org)
2. Sealed official transcripts from every college/university attended
3. Three sealed reference rating forms; signature of rater across the seal
4. Signed Code of Ethics
5. Signed Endorsement Agreement
6. Endorsement Processing Fee appropriate to the level at which the candidate is applying

Continuing Endorsement requirements:

1. Ongoing membership in MI-AIMH (or another IMH association)
2. Annual participation in 15 clock hours of culturally sensitive, relationship-focused training experiences that promote infant mental health

MI-AIMH ENDORSEMENT (IMH-E®) LEVELS OF COMPETENCY¹				
	Infant Family Associate Level I	Infant Family Specialist Level II	Infant Mental Health Specialist Level III	Infant Mental Health Mentor Clinical, Policy, or Research/Faculty Level IV
Education	CDA or Associate's degree or 2 years early childhood experience AND/OR	Masters or Bachelors degree	Masters or post-graduate degree	Masters, post-graduate, doctorate, post-doctorate
Work Experience	Two years in the infant, early childhood, and family field	Minimum 2 years, paid, providing services that promote infant mental health for infants, toddlers, and their families	Minimum 2 years post Masters, paid, providing infant mental health intervention to infants, toddlers, and their parents	Minimum 3 years post Masters, paid, as a practice leader to the infant, toddler, and family field
In-service Training	Minimum 30 hours	Minimum 30 hours	Minimum 30 hours	Minimum 30 hours
Membership in MI-AIMH or other IMH association	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Code of Ethics	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed
Endorsement Agreement	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed
Reflective Supervision or Consultation	N/A	Minimum 24 clock hours within a one to two year time period while working with infants, toddlers, & families	Minimum 50 clock hours within a one to two year time period while working with infants, toddlers, & families	Clinical: Minimum 50 clock hours within a one to two year time period while working with infants, toddlers, & families
Reference Ratings	Three (from current program supervisor, teacher, trainer, consultant, or parent/service recipient)	Three 1. Current program supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant. 2. Person providing reflective supervision/consultation. 3. Another supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant; or a colleague.	1. Current program supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant. 2. Person providing reflective supervision/consultation. 3. Another supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant; colleague; or supervisee (if applicant is a supervisor).	Three (Please see Level IV Requirements document for specific guidelines for who should complete reference rating forms for Clinical, Policy, and Research/Faculty applicants).
Written Exam	No	No	Yes	Yes
Professional portfolio	Applicant will submit a professional portfolio that demonstrates that he/she has met both the requirements and the competencies specified at each level. Details about competencies can be found in the publication <i>Competency Guidelines</i> .			

Endorsement Fee Schedule				
	Infant Family Associate (Level I)	Infant Family Specialist (Level II)	Infant Mental Health Specialist (Level III)	Infant Mental Health Mentor (Level IV)
Application Fee	\$15	\$20	\$25	\$25
Processing Fee	\$25	\$100	\$300	\$400
Total	\$40	\$120	\$325	\$425

¹ This chart represents only a summary of the requirements at each level. Please visit www.mi-aimh.org for full details about both the requirements and the competencies.